

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 423

By Winningham

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Corporal Rusty Lee Washam, United States Marine Corps.

WHEREAS, our nation was conceived by individuals who were willing to sacrifice their personal safety and concerns to ensure our individual and collective freedom, and the Volunteer State is especially proud to be the home of so many valiant men and women who have performed above and beyond the call of duty; and

WHEREAS, thousands of Tennesseans continue this time-honored tradition of volunteerism through service in the Armed Forces, including the United States Marine Corps; sadly many of these honored defenders of our nation and its liberties have fallen in battle throughout our country's history; and

WHEREAS, on February 14, 2006, Corporal Rusty Lee Washam, United States Marine Corps, died while performing combat operations in Iraq; and

WHEREAS, the dedicated Mr. Washam received numerous prestigious awards recognizing his outstanding service to his country, including the Purple Heart, the Combat Action Ribbon, the National Defense Service Medal, the Iraq Campaign Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, the Global War on Terrorism for Service, and the Sea Service Deployment Ribbon; his ribbons reflect that he was fired upon and returned fire in two separate conflicts; and

WHEREAS, he also qualified as expert with a M-16; and

WHEREAS, a beloved son, husband, and father, Rusty Washam was a 2003 graduate of Scott High School, where he excelled in sports, particularly football and basketball; he was a member of the Athletic Club and enjoyed camping, fishing, and deer hunting; and

WHEREAS, he was a faithful member of Fairview Missionary Baptist Church; and

WHEREAS, he joined the Marines to proudly serve his country just one month after his high school graduation; and

WHEREAS, Corporal Washam was a member of the 3rd Battalion, 6th Marines, assigned to a special security mission that left for Iraq in August of 2005; trained as a driver and gunner, he was part of a mission to protect both the Battalion and Regimental Commanders of the 3rd Battalion 6th Marines on special missions in Iraq; and

WHEREAS, while stationed in Iraq, Corporal Washam enjoyed talking to the Iraqi children, felt considerable compassion for the Iraqi people, and sincerely felt he was helping them achieve a better life; he also talked about going to college after he returned home and couldn't wait to take his sons fishing and visit his friends and family; and

WHEREAS, Corporal Washam served with great courage and gallantry, giving his life for his country and for the cause in which he believed and, for that ultimate sacrifice, he deserves proper recognition; as a member of the United States Marine Corps, he proudly continued an essential tradition of American society: the concept of citizen-soldier; and

WHEREAS, Rusty Lee Washam's dedication to excellence in the military and his love of his family, his fellow soldiers, and his country, exemplified in his sacrifice of life itself in defense of all that he held dear, stand as enduring examples of all the characteristics that have ensured the continued freedom of our nation and the preservation of its ideals over the course of our history; and

WHEREAS, Corporal Rusty Lee Washam is survived by his parents, Sonny and Beverly Washam; his wife, Megan Nicole Sexton Washam; two sons, Ryan and Andrew Washam; two brothers, SSGT Donnie Washam with wife, Leslie, and Corporal Dustin Washam; three sisters, Lilly Washam, Michelle Washam, and Misty Day with husband, Festus; Mamaw, Gladys Stephens; brother-in-law, Jeremiah Sexton; sister-in-law, Tamera Hammonds; father-and mother-in-law, Joey and Vanessa Sexton; special friend, Sherwood Hembree; five nieces, Kasie Burris, Chelsey Byrd, Alyssa Terry, Amanda Washam, and Grace Litton; seven nephews, Cody and Cory Day, Tristen and Wayatt Terry, Joshua Washam, Kavan Wilson, and Hunter Sexton; several aunts and uncles, and many other relatives; and

WHEREAS, Corporal Washam was preceded in death by his grandparents, Earl and Flossie Washam, and Ira Jeffers; great-grandparents, Bertha Thorpe, Anna Jeffers Chadwick, Oza Simpson, and Steve Jeffers; two uncles, Bobby Washam and PFC Donny Washam; and one aunt, Lois Bullock; and

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly are proud to join with the United States Marine Corps and the citizens of Fairview, Williamson County, the State of Tennessee, and the United States of America in honoring a fallen son; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor the memory of Corporal Rusty Lee Washam of Fairview and Williamson County for his heroic sacrifice of his life as a member of the United States Marine Corps and express to his family our sorrow for his loss and our gratitude for his commitment to the cause of freedom.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.